

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOE-11 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02

SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /117 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8915

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, MX

SUBJECT: SITE VISIT - ZONA SUR PETROLEUM INSTALLATIONS

1. DEPTOFF AND PETOFF MADE FAMILIARIZATION TOUR OF ZONA SUR HEADQUARTERS, PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEXES AT MINATITLAN (DRIVE-BY) AND PAJARITOS (FULL TOUR), NEW TERMINAL AT PAJARITOS AND NEARBY REFINERY.

2. ENGINEERS AT ZONA SUR DESCRIBED PROGRESS IN GAS USE WITHIN EXISTING SOUTHERN PIPELINE SYSTEM AND RESULTING REDUCED FLARING. ENGINEERS EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN ULTIMATE U.S. GAS SALES AND NEED FOR REVENUES.

3. SAME ENGINEERS DESCRIBED PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN LAYING PIPE IN ZONA SUR. AREA IS MARSHY AND HAS 11 MAJOR RIVERS WHICH MUST BE CROSSED. ALSO, FARMERS AND FISHERMEN IN THE AREA ARE COMPLAINING OF POLLUTION AND POOR COMPENSATION FOR RIGHT OF WAY. POLITICAL PRESSURES RAISED BY THESE GROUPS HAVE OCCASIONALLY BEEN SUFFICIENT TO INTERFERE WITH WORK. DESPITE PROBLEMS ENGINEERS MAINTAIN THAT PIPELINE WILL BE FINISHED IN MARCH 1979 (NOW A STANDARD PEMEX COMMENT).

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4. PIPELINE RIGHT OF WAY CUT AND TRENCH EXTEND AS FAR AS CAN BE SEEN IN EITHER DIRECTION FROM MINATITLAN/ COATZACOALCOS HIGHWAY. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE PIPELINE ACTIVITY IN THE AREA. COMOFF, DURING RECENT VISIT TO SITE OF LAGUNA VERDE NUCLEAR PLANT CONSTRUCTION, NOTED SIMILAR LEVELS OF ACTIVITY.

5. ALL AREA PETROCHEMICAL AND REFINERY INSTALLATIONS ARE LINKED TO TERMINAL AT PAJARITOS. TERMINAL, STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION, HAS SIX SLIPS AND CAN ACCOMMODATE UP TO 12 TANKERS OF 57,000 TONS OR LESS. TERMINAL IS SET UP TO HANDLE SHIPMENTS OF CRUDE OIL, GASOLINE, KEROSENE, DIESEL OIL, AND AMMONIA. ENGINEERS AT SITE SAID THAT GROUND PREPARATION TOOK A FULL YEAR, SIGNALLING SIMILAR PROBLEMS FOR PIPELAYING OPERATIONS. LUCEY

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Message Attributes

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